

REMARKS

The examiner states that this application contains thirteen inventions or groups of inventions (I-XIII) which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and requires election of a single invention to which the claims are to be restricted. The examiner further requires election of one serine protease sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8 or 10 or a DNA sequence encoding the serine protease sequence.

Applicants elect with traverse Group I, drawn to a serine protease of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10 and presently comprising claims 41 and 47 for prosecution on the merits. Applicants further elect the serine protease sequence of SEQ ID NO:10. Traversal of the restriction requirement insofar as Groups I and VII are concerned is based on the diagnostic marker of claim 36 (Group VII) reciting that it comprises the protein of claim 41. Just like claim 47, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein according to claim 41, is part of Group I, the diagnostic marker comprising the protein according to claim 41 is also a part of Group I and should be rejoined and examined with the elected Group I claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement insofar as Groups I and VII are concerned are respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 09/856,371
Amd. dated June 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2004

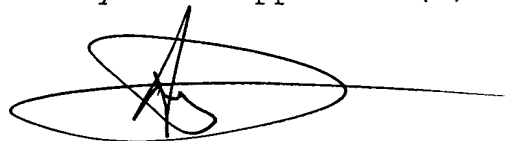
It is also understood that, if the elected product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP 821.04. Such withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the product claim(s) include claims 31, 46, and 48-53.

Favorable consideration and examination of Groups I and VII are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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